Amendments to the claims:

Listing of Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Original) A strain of a micro-organism characterized in that one or more of its NADPH-oxidizing activities have been limited.

2. (Currently amended) A strain according to Claim 1 characterized in that one or more of its NADPH-oxidizing activities have been limited by the deletion of one or more genes coding for at least one of a quinone oxidoreductase [and/or] and a soluble transhydrogenase.

3. (Currently amended) A strain according to [either of Claims 1 and 2] Claim 1 characterized in that it has also undergone modifications that favour one or more of its $NADP^+$-reducing enzyme activities.

4. (Currently amended) A strain according to Claim 3 characterized in that it has undergone the deletion of one or more genes coding for at least one of a phosphoglucose isomerase [and/or] and a phosphofructokinase.

5. (Currently amended) A strain according to [any of Claims 1 to 4] Claim 1 characterized in that it has also undergone the modification of one or more genes coding for at least one of a dihydrolipoamide dehydrogenase [and/or] and a glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase so as to cause it to utilize NADP preferentially.

6. (Currently amended) A strain according to [any of Claims 1 to 5] Claim 1 characterized in that it also overexpresses one or more genes coding for a glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase, or a 6-phosphogluconolactonase, or a 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase, or an isocitrate dehydrogenase or a membrane-bound transhydrogenase.

7. (Currently amended) A strain according to [any of Claims 1 to 6] Claim 1 characterized in that it has also undergone the deletion of one or more genes coding for a 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase, or a malate synthase, or an isocitrate lyase or an isocitrate dehydrogenase kinase/phosphatase.

8. (Currently amended) A strain according to [any of Claims 1 to 7] Claim 1, characterized in that it comprises one or more endogenous or exogenous genes coding for enzymes involved in the biotransformation of a substance of interest.

9. (Currently amended) A strain according to [any of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1, characterized in that it comprises one or more selection marker genes.

10. (Currently amended) A strain according to [any of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1 characterized in that it is selected [among the following:] from the group consisting of *Aspergillus sp.*, *Bacillus sp.*, *Brevibacterium sp.*, *Clostridium sp.*, *Corynebacterium sp.*, *Escherichia sp.*, *Gluconobacter sp.*, *Penicillium sp.*, *Pichia sp.*, *Pseudomonas sp.*, *Rhodococcus sp.*, *Saccharomyces sp.*, *Streptomyces sp.*, *Xanthomonas sp.* [or] and *Candida sp.*

11. (Currently amended) A method for the preparation of [strains optimized according to any of Claims 1 to 10 characterized in that it involves the deletion of] the strain of Claim 1 comprising deleting one or more genes coding for a quinone oxidoreductase and/or a soluble transhydrogenase, and [if required the deletion of] optionally deleting one or more genes coding for a phosphoglucose isomerase, or a phosphofructokinase, or a 6-phosphogluconate dehydratase, or a malate synthase, or an isocitrate lyase or an isocitrate dehydrogenase kinase/phosphatase, [and/or the modification or] and optionally modifying one or more genes coding for at least one of a dihydrolipoamide dehydrogenase [and/or] and a glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase, so as to cause it to utilize NADP preferentially, which deletions and modifications are carried out by appropriate means, [and/or the overexpression of] and optionally overexpressing one or more genes coding for a glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase, or a 6-phosphogluconolactonase, or a 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase, or an isocitrate dehydrogenase or a membrane transhydrogenase, either by converting the strain by means of an appropriate vector containing one or more genes coding for one or more enzymes involved in the biotransformation of at least one of a substance of interest [and/or] and one or more selection marker genes, or by modifying the strength of the endogenous promoter or promoters controlling the gene or genes to be overexpressed.

12. (Currently amended) A method for the production of a substance of interest formed by a biosynthesis route of which at least one step is NADPH-dependent characterized in that it comprises the following [two] steps:

a) [Growth in culture of] growing micro-organisms [optimized according to any of Claims 1 to 10] of the strain of Claim 1 in an appropriate culture medium that favours their growth and contains substances necessary for carrying out biotransformations by fermentation or bioconversion, except NADPH[.] ; and

b) [Extraction of the] extracting a substance of interest from the medium and [if necessary its purification] optionally purifying said substance.

13. (Currently amended) [A] The method according to Claim 12 characterized in that the substance of interest is an amino acid, or a vitamin, or a sterol, or a flavonoid, or a fatty acid, or an organic acid, or a polyol or a hydroxyester.